

CALIFORNIA

INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER

Honoring Diversity & History
of California Indian People

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American Masterpieces:

Artistic Legacy of California Indian Basketry

California State Parks and the California Arts Council
are jointly presenting the exhibit, American Masterpieces:
Artistic Legacy of California Indian Basketry.

Opening March 14th of this year at the California Museum in Sacramento, this
exhibit was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

After its run in Sacramento, the baskets and a set
of panels will travel to different venues
around the state.

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Greetings from the Task Force

 On March 11, 2009, I attended the opening reception for the American Masterpieces: Artistic Legacy of California Indian Basketry exhibition at the California Museum at 1020 O Street, in Sacramento. It opened to the public on March 14th. The exhibit showcases 86 baskets from the over 3,500 California Indian Baskets California State Parks has in its care. They will be on display through early 2010. Many of these baskets are on public view for the first time.

Mary Tarango, Chairperson of the Wilton Rancheria, opened the reception with a blessing. Besides myself, speakers included State Parks Director Ruth Coleman, Director of the California Arts Council, Muriel Johnson; and Claudia French, Executive Director of the California Museum. Award winning Native American flute artist Mary Youngblood provided the music. I would like to thank guest curator Brian Bibby, Exhibit Designer Renato Consolini, and California Indian Heritage Center Museum Curator Ileana Maestas for all their work in producing the exhibit.

The display, which underscored the 5,000 year evolution of Native American basketry in California, was the result of partnership and participation between California State Parks, California Native American advisors, the California Indian Basket Weavers Association, the California Arts Council, and of course the California Museum. It was made possible with funding from a National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpieces grant which was matched equally by California State Parks Capital District State Museums and Historic Parks. The event offered the California Indian Heritage Center

CIHC Project Progress Report

Business Plan

ERA (Environmental Research Associates) of San Francisco, the Business Plan consultants, will develop recommendations for how the CIHC will be governed and operated, as well as a marketing plan to raise private funds for development and operations. ERA conducted a series of interviews in 2008 with both Native Americans and those knowledgeable in fund raising. This phase is temporarily on hold due to a freeze in bond funding.

General Plan

The project team completed the

General Plan draft scope for a service agreement with EDAW Inc. It is anticipated that the first phase will consist of site work, "to heal the land", as the CIHC Core Advisors expressed it, as well as an interpretive facility and a place to care for the Tribal Treasures. As soon as the bond funding freeze is lifted, the General Plan consultant contract will be executed and the project will proceed.

CIHC Non-Profit Foundation

Completion of the bylaws and the 501(c) 3 filing for the CIHC Foundation is complete. An initial Foundation Board has been selected.

It is anticipated that additional board members will be added after ERA completes the CIHC Business Plan.

CIHC Land

The CIHC Project is pursuing acquisition of several adjacent properties to the CIHC West Sacramento site. We are seeking a Proposition 84 grant for a portion of the acquisition. The CIHC received support letters from Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, Mayor of West Sacramento Christopher Calbaldon, Assemblywoman Lois Wolk, Yolo County Parks and Resources Department Director Warren Westrup, and

Project its first opportunity to participate in what will be more and more commonplace as the Heritage Center moves forward to fruition. Without vital links between its partners and stakeholders the Heritage Center will not become and continue to be the kind of place we all envision.



**Task Force Chairman
Larry Myers**

A blue ink signature of Larry Myers.

Larry Myers, CIHC Task Force Chairman

Executive Secretary Larry Myers of the Native American Heritage Commission. If we are successful the total size will be approximately 67 acres.

Site and Facility Master Plan

The Site and Facility Master Plan consultant, EDAW Inc., completed the draft CIHC Master Plan. The Master Plan describes a conceptual site that addresses constraints and opportunities, infrastructure, circulation, and the relationship of site facilities. It defines the architectural massing and materials envisioned for development. It defines the project

at full buildout and targets an achievable first phase along with projected costs. The document describing the Master Plan, the California Indian Heritage Center: Concept Master Plan Interim Site & Facility Master Planning and Programming Report, March 2008, will be available on the CIHC website after bond funded projects are approved.

Staffing

In February, Jennifer Peterson joined the CIHC team to help steward the Tribal Treasures. Jennifer received her Masters Degree in Museum Studies from

CIHC Team Member Spotlight

Sherrie Smith-Ferri has been an advisor with the California Indian Heritage Center project for the past four years, participating in the Interim Planning and Programming Phase and more recently a member of the Core Advisory Group during the Master Planning Phase. As Executive Director of Ukiah's Grace Hudson Museum & Sun House, she has been particularly influential in the collections aspect of the CIHC, bringing valuable experience and knowledge to this project. In addition to being a CIHC Core Advisor she has also consulted on the exhibit *American Masterpieces: Artistic Legacy of California Indian Basketry*.

Sherrie is a member of northern California's Dry Creek Band of Pomo Indians and is also descended from the Bodega Bay Miwok people. She received her doctorate in cultural anthropology from the University of Washington and has written numerous articles on Pomo Indian basketry and the paintings of famed California artist Grace Hudson. She has been curator or consultant for various Indian basketry-related exhibitions, including several for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian.



Sacramento State University. She was the curator for several small exhibits with Native American themes and has come to us from the California State Parks Photographic Archives. At the archives, her duties included cataloging the historic photographs associated with the State Indian Museum as well as the collection of other photographs of Native people under the care of the Photo Archives.

Collage of Baskets from

These baskets are some of the many from our collection
Artistic Legacy of California Indian Basketry™



Yokuts, Western Mono Seed Beater.



Tubatulabal Feast Basket.



Achumawi Burden Basket.



Maidu Cooking Basket,
Feast Basket.

From our Tribal Treasures

that are featured in the exhibit "American Masterpieces:
at the California Museum in Sacramento.



Pomo Cooking Basket.



Karuk, Shasta Burden Basket.



Maidu Tray.

Pomo Boat Basket.



Tribal Treasures Update

In November 2008, the State Indian Museum received a donation from the nephew of Benjamin Hathaway, the original curator of the Indian Museum. The donation was a box of Mr. Hathaway's personal papers and photos relating to the museum and its tribal treasures. The contents included correspondences between Mr. Hathaway and some of the weavers from whom he purchased baskets, original photos from A.O. Carpenter, and pictures of Mabel McKay, from the 1940's, weaving one of the baskets that is currently on display at the State Indian Museum. While not entirely inventoried at the time of this writing, this donation will undoubtedly shed light on many of the weavers whose baskets are in the collection of the CIHC.

American Masterpieces (continued from Page 1)

The exhibit features over 80 baskets from the Tribal Treasures which create the basis of the California Indian Heritage Center's collection. For some baskets, this will be the first time they have been on public display. Many hours were dedicated to tracing the history of these baskets and the journey that brought them to the CIHC. Research conducted by Brian Bibby, guest curator, revealed the names of several basket weavers whose work is represented in this collection; several of these weavers' baskets will be in this exhibit. This includes

Joseppa Dick (Pomo), Elizabeth Hickox (Karuk/Wiyot) and Lena Dick (Washoe). As it states on the NEA website, "American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius is a major initiative to acquaint Americans with the best of their cultural and artistic legacy." By featuring these baskets, this exhibit will expose the people of California to the rich legacy and art form that is California Indian basketry, elevating to its proper place among the arts.

California Indian baskets are American Masterpieces!



New Docents Welcomed at the Museum

Twelve people recently completed six weeks of intensive training at the State Indian Museum and are now part of our ever-growing docent staff. Each of our new docents brings a wealth of talent and knowledge to the Indian Museum. Among the new docents, we are honored to have Native

people, retired teachers, a college professor, college students, and recent college graduates.

Training consisted of classroom sessions, attendance at Acorn Day (our annual event celebrating the acorn harvest season), guest lectures, and traditional skills demonstrations. They also enjoyed a trip to the Sacramento Museum Resource Center located in West Sacramento, where they viewed many of the over 3,200 baskets in our stewardship there.

Welcome, and thank you all for helping to enrich our visitors' experience!

If you are interested in becoming a docent at the State Indian Museum, visit our website www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum or contact Connie McGough at (916) 324-8112 or cmcgough@parks.ca.gov.



2008 State Indian Museum Docent Graduation

CIHC Project Calendar

Check with our website, www.CIHC.parks.ca.gov, for updates and more project information.

May

- May 24 - **45th Annual Fiesta** Malki Museum, Morongo Reservation, Banning, CA.
- May 29 - **7th Annual Klamath Trinity Fish Fair and Salmon Run Relay Race.** Hoopa Valley Elementary School, Hoopa, CA.
- May 30 & 31 - **38th Annual Spring Indian Market.** Pacific Western Traders, Folsom, CA.

June

- Thru June - **Contemporary Ledger Art by Michael Horse.** Marin Museum of the American Indian, Novato, CA.
- June 6 - **32nd Annual Gathering of Honored Elders.** State Indian Museum, Sacramento, CA.
- June 26 thru 28 - **19th Annual California Indian Basketweavers Gathering.** Tish-Tang Campground, Hoopa, CA.

July

- July 9 thru 11 - **For All My Relations: 10th Annual Conference for Indian Families.** Hyatt Regency Orange County, Garden Grove, CA.
- Through July 16 - **Precious Cargo: California Indian Cradle Baskets and Childbirth Traditions & Hoopa Valley Tribe.** Marin Museum of the American Indian, Novato, CA.
- July 25 - **29th Annual Big Time Festival.** Kule Loklo, Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Reyes, CA.



August

- April 6 thru 10 - **Native American Cultural Days 2009.** UC Davis Campus, Davis, CA.

September

- Thru September 3 - **Visual Sovereignty: International Indigenous Photography.** C. N. Gorman Museum, UC Davis Campus, Davis, CA.



State Parks Director Ruth Coleman and CIHC Task Force Chairman Larry Myers speaking at the reception for the American Masterpieces exhibit.

CIHC Task Force

Larry Myers (Pomo), Chairman
 Ruth Coleman, CA State Parks Director
 Cindi Alvitre (Tongva)
 Tim Bactad (Kumeyaay)
 Gen Denton (Miwok)
 Reba Fuller (Me-Wuk)
 Bill Mungary (Paiute/Apache)
 David Quintana, CA State Resources Agency designee

The CIHC Newsletter is the official newsletter of the California Indian Heritage Center. It is published by California State Parks. The newsletter provides updates about the California Indian Heritage Center and the State Indian Museum programs and initiatives. For information please contact (916) 324-8112 or email cihc@parks.ca.gov.

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